

Middle English Literature MCQ Question Answer

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Question: 1. Which people began their invasion and conquest of southwestern Britain around 450?

- Option A. the Normans
- Option B. the Geats
- Option C. the Celts
- Option D. the Anglo-Saxons

Question: 2. Words from which language began to enter English vocabulary around the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066?

- Option A. French
- Option B. Norwegian
- Option C. Spanish
- Option D. Hungarian

Question: 3. Which hero made his earliest appearance in Celtic literature before becoming a staple subject in French, English, and German literatures?

- Option A. Beowulf
- Option B. Arthur
- Option C. Caedmon
- Option D. Augustine of Canterbury

Question: 4. Toward the close of which century did English replace French as the language of conducting business in Parliament and in court of law?

- Option A. tenth
- Option B. eleventh
- Option C. twelfth
- Option D. fourteenth

Question: 5. Which king began a war to enforce his claims to the throne of France in 1336?

- Option A. Henry II
- Option B. Henry III
- Option C. Henry V
- Option D. Edward III

Question: 6. Who would be called the English Homer and father of English poetry?

- Option A. Bede
- Option B. Sir Thomas Malory
- Option C. Geoffrey Chaucer
- Option D. Caedmon

Question: 7. What was vellum?

- Option A. parchment made of animal skin
- Option B. the service owed to a lord by his peasants (villeins)
- Option C. unrhymed iambic pentameter
- Option D. an unbreakable oath of fealty

Question: 8. Only a small proportion of medieval books survive, large numbers having been destroyed in:

- Option A. the Anglo-Saxon Conquest beginning in the 1450s.
- Option B. the Norman Conquest of 1066.
- Option C. the Peasant Uprising of 1381.
- Option D. the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s.

Question: 9. What is the first extended written specimen of Old English?

- Option A. Boethius's Consolidation of Philosophy
- Option B. Saint Jerome's translation of the Bible
- Option C. Malory's Morte d'Arthur
- Option D. a code of laws promulgated by King Ethelbert

Question: 10. Who was the first English Christian king?

- Option A. Alfred
- Option B. Richard III
- Option C. Richard II
- Option D. Ethelbert

Question: 11. In Anglo-Saxon heroic poetry, what is the fate of those who fail to observe the sacred duty of blood vengeance?

- Option A. banishment to Asia
- Option B. everlasting shame
- Option C. conversion to Christianity
- Option D. mild melancholia

Question: 12. Christian writers like the Beowulf poet looked back on their pagan ancestors with:

- Option A. nostalgia and ill-concealed envy.
- Option B. bewilderment and visceral loathing.
- Option C. admiration and elegiac sympathy.
- Option D. bigotry and shallow triumphalism.

Question: 13. The use of whale-road for sea and life-house for body are examples of what literary technique, popular in Old English poetry?

- Option A. symbolism
- Option B. simile

- Option C. metonymy
- Option D. kenning

Question: 14. Which of the following statements is not an accurate description of Old English poetry?

- Option A. Romantic love is a guiding principle of moral conduct.
- Option B. Its formal and dignified use of speech was distant from everyday use of language.
- Option C. Irony is a mode of perception, as much as it was a figure of speech.
- Option D. Christian and pagan ideals are sometimes mixed.

Question: 15. Which of the following best describes litote, a favorite rhetorical device in Old English poetry?

- Option A. embellishment at the service of Christian doctrine
- Option B. repetition of parallel syntactic structures
- Option C. ironic understatement
- Option D. stress on every third diphthong

Question: 16. How did Henry II, the first of Englands Plantagenet kings, acquire vast provinces in southern France?

- Option A. the Battle of Hastings
- Option B. Saint Patricks mission
- Option C. the Fourth Lateran Council
- Option D. his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine

Question: 17. Which of the following languages did not coexist in Anglo-Norman England?

- Option A. Latin
- Option B. Dutch
- Option C. French
- Option D. English

Question: 18. Which twelfth-century poet or poets were indebted to Breton storytellers for their narratives?

- Option A. Geoffrey Chaucer
- Option B. Chrétien de Troyes
- Option C. a and c only
- Option D. b and c only

Question: 19. Popular English adaptations of romances appealed primarily to

- Option A. the royal family and upper orders of the nobility
- Option B. the lower orders of the nobility
- Option C. agricultural laborers
- Option D. the clergy

Question: 20. What is the climax of Geoffrey of Monmouth's The History of the Kings of Britain?

- Option A. the reign of King Arthur
- Option B. the coronation of Henry II
- Option C. King John's seal of the Magna Carta
- Option D. the marriage of Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine

Question: 21. Ancrene Riwle is a manual of instruction for

- Option A. courtiers entering the service of Richard II
- Option B. translators of French romances
- Option C. women who have chosen to live as religious recluses
- Option D. knights preparing for their first tournament

Question: 22. The styles of The Owl and the Nightingale and Ancrene Riwle show what about the poetry and prose written around the year 1200?

- Option A. They were written for sophisticated and well-educated readers.
- Option B. Writing continued to benefit only readers fluent in Latin and French.
- Option C. Their readers' primary language was English.
- Option D. a and c only

Question: 23. In addition to Geoffrey Chaucer and William Langland, the flowering of Middle English literature is evident in the works of which of the following writers?

- Option A. Geoffrey of Monmouth
- Option B. the Gawain poet
- Option C. the Beowulf poet
- Option D. Chrétien de Troyes

Question: 24. Why did the rebels of 1381 target the church, beheading the archbishop of Canterbury?

- Option A. Their leaders were Lollards, advocating radical religious reform.
- Option B. The common people were still essentially pagan.
- Option C. They believed that writing, a skill largely confined to the clergy, was a form of black magic.
- Option D. The church was among the greatest of oppressive landowners.

Question: 25. Which influential medieval text purported to reveal the secrets of the afterlife?

- Option A. Dante's Divine Comedy
- Option B. Boccaccio's Decameron
- Option C. The Dream of the Rood
- Option D. Chaucer's Legend of Good Women

Question: 26. Who is the author of Piers Plowman?

- Option A. Sir Thomas Malory
- Option B. Margery Kempe

Option C. Geoffrey Chaucer

Option D. William Langland

Question: 27. What event resulted from the premature death of Henry V?

Option A. the Battle of Agincourt

Option B. the Battle of Hastings

Option C. the Norman Conquest

Option D. the War of the Roses

Question: 28. Which literary form, developed in the fifteenth century, personified vices and virtues?

Option A. the short story

Option B. the heroic epic

Option C. the morality play

Option D. the romance

Question: 29. Which of the following statements about Julian of Norwich is true?

Option A. She sought unsuccessfully to restore classical paganism.

Option B. She was a virgin martyr.

Option C. She is the first known woman writer in the English vernacular.

Option D. She made pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Rome, and Santiago.

Question: 30. Which of the following authors is considered a devotee to chivalry, as it is personified in Sir Lancelot?

Option A. Julian of Norwich

Option B. Margery Kempe

Option C. William Langland

Option D. Sir Thomas Malory

Answer Sheet

1	D	
2	A	
3	B	
4	D	
5	D	
6	C	
7	A	
8	D	
9	D	
10	D	
11	B	
12	C	
13	D	
14	A	
15	C	
16	D	
17	B	
18	D	
19	D	
20	A	
21	C	
22	D	
23	B	
24	D	
25	A	
26	D	
27	D	
28	C	
29	C	
30	D	